



Naval Station Pascagoula's award-winning on-line newspaper

# Homeport

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Photo by JO1 Kim deJong

## A word from our Commanders

# CNO sees great things coming for Navy

By JO1(SW) Jason McKnight

Navy Region Southwest Public Affairs

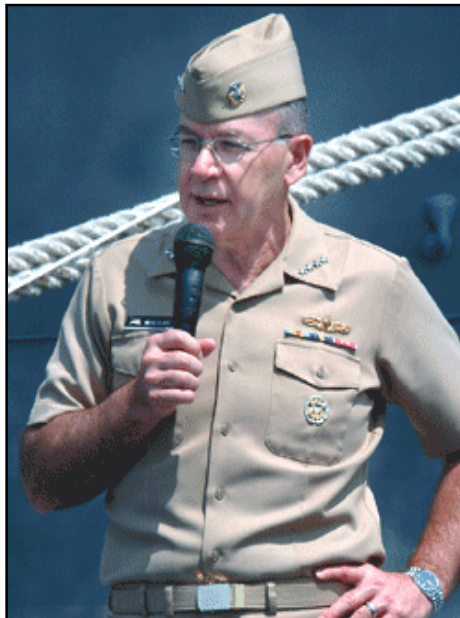
POINT LOMA, Calif. (NNS) — Chief of Naval Operations (CNO) ADM Vern Clark held a quick press conference Nov. 21 at the Admiral Kidd Catering and Conference center on Fleet Anti-Submarine Warfare Training Center, after a Military Affairs Advisory Council breakfast.

The CNO told reporters he sees great things coming in the near and far future for the Navy. He talked about various hot topics on Sailors' minds today.

The CNO said Sea Warrior's attractive retention efforts, like the professional continuum milestones such as industry and trade certification, aren't designed to contradict the force-shaping efforts of Perform to Serve.

"We understand that we live in a competitive world, and Perform to Serve is about the fact it is absolutely unconscionable that you're going to have 125 percent manning in one area and 75 percent in another area," he said. "We put a mechanism in place that everybody can see and understand that says if you're in an overmanned area, we're going to help you transition to another area, but you've got to compete to do that."

Clark said Sea Warrior is about the power of choice. Individuals will compete for jobs, and command master chiefs and executive officers will also have a say in the matching billets to their departing Sailors. This is a departure from detailers having the final say on where Sailors will go.



U.S. Navy Photo

## *The Chief of Naval Operations, ADM Vern Clark, talks to Sailors about the future of the Navy.*

Pulse and Cruise deployments and their effect on the fleet is a big concern for both Sailors and their families today. The CNO says the times have changed, and the Navy has to be ready to give the President options.

"We had worked ourselves into a posture that said 'here's a peacetime construct and this is the way life is always going to be,'" he said. "We have to have a posture that allows us to be responsive in an uncertain world. We're not going to surge people just for the fun of it. This is the point that the people are going to need to remember: we talk about being emergency surge capable. That means that there is an emergency."

Clark said six-month, heel-to-toe deployments have become so routine, that many who should not be privy to ship movement schedules can predict them.

The CNO talked about surging USS Theodore Roosevelt (CVN 71), making it the fifth carrier in theater for Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF). He said marrying the expedited surge workup with the ship's maintenance period saved up to six months off the normal period it would take.

"That's what it's going to be like," he said. "That's a real change in the way we train a unit up and get it ready."

Clark's personal experiences commanding ships and squadrons showed him that shipyard periods take a heavy toll on unit

readiness.

"When I was here in this town, I commanded three ships and two squadrons," he said. "I had 25 COs [commanding officer] work for me. I saw this happen a lot. Ships come and go. I never saw one, not one, that didn't come home in better shape than when they left. What I want to do is capitalize on that readiness that we've achieved, and I don't see any reason to take them every time they come home from deployment to put them in the shipyard and take their readiness way down."

The CNO is putting the lessons he learned into practice to bring about major changes in maintenance cycles.

"Sometimes you've got to do real deep maintenance on the ships, take months to do deep modernization and deep maintenance in a shipyard," he said.

But there are other times coming home from deployment that we can do shallow maintenance. Say to the shipyard, 'OK, you can do any maintenance you want to do on this ship, but I want you to do it with this guideline: you can't be doing maintenance to it that you can't give it back to me in 30 days.' That's the kind of deal I want to cut.

"Is this going to be better or worse for people? I want to tell you, if you've ever lived through a shipyard period, you'd be assured that this is going to be better for Sailors, not the other way around," said Clark.

The Fleet Response Plan (FRP) is still being worked as a learning, growing institution. The plan calls for "presence with a purpose," which means the CNO would rather see the Navy deploy to an area with specific goals and intentions instead of merely marking time off a deployment calendar. The CNO challenges all Sailors to review the current ways of doing things and find better solutions.

"Every time we do anything, including in my airplane when we're flying home, we'll all sit down and say, 'What could we have done better on this trip?'" he said. "'How can we have done this better?' This is what I want the whole Navy to be doing every day... How can we make it better today than it was yesterday?'"

The FRP will be expanded to include Expeditionary Strike Groups (ESG) next.

Sea Swap lessons learned are showing

*Continued on page 13*



Naval Station Pascagoula's hometown on-line newspaper

## Homeport

Commanding Officer . . . . CDR Terry Rea  
Executive Officer . . . . LCDR Nancy Fink  
Public Affairs Officer . . . Stacey Byington  
Journalist . . . . . JO1 Kim deJong

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## From our Fleet



**Admiral's visit --** *RADM Patrick Stillman, USCG, toured assets of U.S. Coast Guard Station Pascagoula and NAVSTA Pascagoula on Dec. 4. He and several Congressional staff members were visiting the area to get briefings on U.S. Coast Guard capabilities. While they were on station they boarded the newest Coast Guard asset, a 47-foot motor life boat.*

Photo by Stacey Byington

## Groves continues to block drug trafficking

By ENS M.W. Noland  
 USS Stephen W. Groves PAO

ABOARD USS STEPHEN W. GROVES — After a short chase starting in the pre-dawn hours, USS Stephen W. Groves (FFG 29) captured another high-speed boat specifically built for smuggling drugs. It was her second such bust in recent weeks in the Eastern Pacific, which resulted in the detention of five suspects and the disruption of 1.5 tons of cocaine from reaching its final destination.

Off the western coast of South America, Groves was on patrol when crewmembers detected a fast-moving contact. The watch team lost little time in commencing a chase, which would last throughout the morning.

"Given our experience, when we see a vessel moving that fast in these waters, we know it's time to get to work," said LT Steve Johnson, the Groves Navigation Officer.

Continuing to act in a successful joint operation, the

crew of the Groves worked alongside with members of Coast Guard Law Enforcement Detachment (LEDET) 201 in the prosecution of the vessel laden with over 50 bails of contraband. The bust resulted in the apprehension and detainment of the vessel's 5-man crew and prevented over \$25 million worth of cocaine from reaching American shores.

"Our primary mission is to impede the flow of drugs. Every bust that we make is a victory that prevents cocaine from reaching our streets in America and keeps money from potential terrorists," commented Groves' combat systems officer, LT William Rayburn.

Groves got underway for her six-month counter-drug operations deployment to the U.S. Naval Forces Southern Command area of responsibility on Sept. 25. While deployed, Groves' crew works with other assets from Joint Interagency Task Force (JIATF) South, the agency responsible for counter-drug

operations in the Eastern Pacific.

Homeported in Pascagoula, Miss., Groves is a Commander, Naval Surface Group (CNSG) Two ship, assigned to Commander, Destroyer Squadron Six. During the ship's deployment, the crew will be patrolling nearly 4 million square nautical miles of water in the Car-

ibbean and Eastern Pacific.

The crew's sentiment on Groves' second bust was summarized by LTJG William Addison "Nothing is more satisfying to a crew than mission accomplishment, and every time we catch one of these drug runners, we know that we are doing our part."



Photo by JO1 Kim deJong

**Frocking--** *MA3 Herbert Florez and MA3 Brian Silvers are frocked by CDR Terry Rea to their current rank in a special ceremony Dec. 12 at the LRC.*

## From our Fleet

# Triplets and blessing aboard Yorktown

By ENS Jessica Morris  
USS Yorktown PAO

The Veteran's Day holiday weekend provided more than a few days off and a quiet weekend duty at Naval Station Pascagoula, Miss. On Nov. 8 aboard USS Yorktown (CG 48) history was made. A set of all male triplets were baptized in the ship's bell with holy water from the Jordan River and following the ceremony, Reverend Jack Miller proceeded to bless the ship with the holy water in which the Cherry triplets were baptized. While many children have been baptized in Yorktown's bell, there have never been triplets.

DC3 Michael Cherry, stationed on the Yorktown since June 2001, and his wife Christina, have been the proud parents of three healthy sons – Ashton Michael, Brandon Patrick and Connor Wayne Cherry – since this past July. After their birth DC3 Cherry was walking on the foc'sle and looked up at the ship's bell. He immediately noticed that within its interior were numerous names of children. These stamped names represent children who were baptized in Yorktown's bell during the ship's life, the first being baptized on June 17, 1994.

The tradition of having children baptized and christened within the ship's bell originates with the British Royal Navy.



Photo by ENS Jessica Morris

***DC3 Michael Cherry with his wife Christina and their three sons after a memorable baptism on the USS Yorktown.***

After the baptism is complete, the children's names are stamped within the bell and then the bell is hung again on the ship's foc'sle. "In this way, an invisible tie is created between the country and its citizens."

After discussing the naval tradition with his wife about a month ago, DC3 began to pull together all the details in order to produce a memorable day. Cherry's legwork definitely paid off. Saturday began with

beautiful sunny weather – that only the Gulf Coast can provide – as cars from Louisiana and Alabama slowly trickled across the causeway leading to the base.

With approximately 150 people invited to the baptism, it was impressive to see about 100 people make their way across Yorktown's brow to her helo-hanger. Family and friends from Baton Rouge, LA; Robertsdale, AL; Houston, TX; and Tampa Bay, FL quickly

filled the chairs DC3 Cherry and his shipmates placed the night before. Cherry said that the majority of his church fellowship – St. John's Episcopal Church in Robertsdale, AL – also attended to support the Cherry family.

Reverend Jack Miller, of St. John's, baptized the children and prayed a blessing over each of them, their parents and godparents. The godparents comprised of family and close friends. Following the children's baptism, Reverend Miller continued to provide a blessing for the ship. The solid brass bell was brought through the circled crowd of people to the center of the flight deck. With heads bowed and eyes closed, Reverend Jack had them pour the holy water onto the deck as he prayed a blessing over the ship.

Afterwards, one sailor mentioned, "Well at least we are blessed for our travel to our deployment's destination, but what about our return?" He was assured that God would be with us every step of the way.

From beautiful children to the blessing of the ship, DC3 Cherry, Reverend Jack Miller, and the fellowship of friends and family provided for a wonderful beginning to the lives of Ashton, Brandon and Connor and a memorable mark in history for all involved.

## Yorktown personnel advanced from Sept. 2003 test

GM2 Merle Albright  
PN2 Kenneth Black  
GM2 Charles Coleman  
OS2 Stephen Crawford  
MS3 Wilson Ray Cruz  
GM3 Vince Digregorio  
OS2 Justin Donato  
YN3 Kelvin Douglas  
MMN1 James Faulkner

OS3 Jeremi Gonzalez  
SK2 Flores Gonzalez  
MR2 Tracy Guarrant  
SH1 Ashley Hamm  
OS3 Kschif Harley  
BM3 Cedric Howard  
STG2 Robert Hughes  
OS3 Shevet Johnson  
OS1 Chad Kiser

IC1 Michael Lambert  
OS2 Richard Lusk  
QM3 Steven Madden  
FC2 Lonnie Mauck  
GM1 John McCowan  
EN2 Todd Michaud  
BM3 Earl Perry  
GM2 Tommy Pistoris  
FC1 Erock Roberts

GM3 Dustin Schmidt  
FC2 Phillip Silvani  
OS2 Daniel Simmons  
FC3 Michael Story  
EW3 Raymon Thompson  
BM1 Robert Walker  
BM2 Tommy Walker  
STG2 Kevin Walker  
OS3 Sean White



## Around the Homeport

# Christmas celebrated around the area



***Christmas Parade-*** Naval Station Pascagoula's 'Float Fleet' decorated for the holidays takes part in the annual Gautier Christmas parade on Dec. 6. Naval Station personnel participated in numerous Christmas events in Jackson County throughout December.

Photo by JO1 Kim deJong



Photo by JO1 Kim deJong

***Christmas Parade -*** The holiday season was kicked off with the annual Gautier Christmas parade on Dec. 6. The USO float is pulled down Rt. 90 as local community residents watched.

**About the cover -** Members of the Naval Station Pascagoula color guard march down Rt. 90 in Gautier as part of the annual Gautier Christmas parade on Dec. 6. The color guard members were CE2 Manuel Baldwin, BM3 Richard Davis, MS3 Kareem Adams and MASN Justin Bentley.



Photo by JO1 Kim deJong

***NAVSTA Christmas party -*** The NAVSTA Christmas party was held Dec. 11 at the base gym. Both civilian and military members chose Christmas gifts.

## Around the Homeport

# Navy advancement exams are coming

By JO1 Kim deJong  
Public Affairs Office

Whether you are striving for E-4 or E-7 it is never too early to begin preparing for Navy-wide advancement exams.

The E-7 exam will be held on Jan. 15, E-6 is March 4, E-5 is March 11 and the E-4 exam is March 18.

According to a Navy advancement website ([Navyadvancement.com](http://Navyadvancement.com)), preparing for advancement exams is the same as studying for any other exam. In order to do well on the exam it is important to have the right material to study.

"The best material to study from is the individuals rate bibliography (bibs)," said NC1 (SW) Mary Dunleavy, NAV STA Pascagoula's Career Counselor.

Bib's can be found at [www.advancementcnet.navy.mil/login.htm](http://www.advancementcnet.navy.mil/login.htm).

## Web Sites

[www.navyadvancement.com](http://www.navyadvancement.com)  
[www.advancement.cnet.navy.mil](http://www.advancement.cnet.navy.mil)  
[www.nko.navy.mil](http://www.nko.navy.mil)  
[www.neds.nebt.daps.mil](http://www.neds.nebt.daps.mil)

When looking for a bib remember they are separated by each rate and rank and active and reserve.

Bibs change every exam cycle, so it is important to ensure you have the most current copy to study from.

"Study specific chapters and information listed on the bibs, because the test are written from the bibs," said Dunleavy.

"If you can't not find information that is listed on the bibs

see departmental training officers. They have access to the information and can help locate subject matter that might be more difficult to find," she added. "Also look at Navy Knowledge Online ([www.nko.navy.mil](http://www.nko.navy.mil)). It has training material for some rates."

Non-resident training courses can be found at [www.courses.cnet.navy.mil](http://www.courses.cnet.navy.mil) and Navy directives such as

OPNAV and SECNAV instructions can be found at [www.neds.nebt.daps.mil](http://www.neds.nebt.daps.mil).

Navy exams are made up of 200 questions based on Navy occupational standards (OCC) and professional military knowledge (PMK).

E-7 exams have 100 OCC and 100 PMK questions and E-6 has 115 OCC and 85 PMK. The E-5 exam is made up of 135 OCC and 65 PMK, and the E-4 has 150 OCC and 50 PMK.

The OCC questions are listed first, with the PMK questions following.

PMK questions are the same for everyone within a pay grade so study groups can be a good way to study according to the Navy advancement.com.

"Studying really pays off, not only in advancement, but also for personnel and professional growth," said Dunleavy.

## CONSEP offers Sailors mid-career guidance

By Gerri Warden  
FFSC Specialist

If you are a mid-career Sailor and not sure what the future holds, the Career Options and Navy Skills Evaluation Program (CONSEP) may hold some answers for you. CONSEP is a three-day approach to transition education designed to help in making education, career, and life decisions whether staying Navy or choosing to return to the civilian sector.

Fleet and Family Support Center held a class Dec. 16 - 18. Future workshops are offered Jan. 27 - 29, and Feb. 17 - 19, from 8 a.m. until 5 p.m.

CONSEP workshops help identify individual skills and talents, develop long-term professional and personal goals, plan for personal financial stability,

research related civilian skills or qualifications, establish effective long-term career planning objectives, and emphasize the value of continuing a Navy career.

This partnership program involves the FFSC's Transition Assistance Management Program, Command Career Counselors, the PFM (Personal Financial Manager), and the Navy College Office.

Some of the material covered in this program includes a self-assessment that includes assessing where you are today and how well you are doing. You will learn how to identify your value; define what makes you unique; what you have done so far; and more about where you want the future to lead.

An entire day is dedicated to personal financial planning, covering such topics as money

management, retirement planning, insurance needs, investment planning, and tax and estate planning for now and the future.

What career options are open to you if you stay Navy? Would you like to have a detailed explanation of how you can go from a white hat to a commissioning program? Have you ever thought of the cost of not getting a college education? And do you need a map towards obtaining a Bachelor's Degree in non-traditional ways? CONSEP will address these issues and more.

The CONSEP workshop helps Sailors plan for the time when they separate or retire from the military. They are shown how to go from a vision to action in civilian life planning. The program dis-

cusses marketing themselves through networking, written materials and interviewing techniques.

The Navy is the first military service to offer this initiative. The Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense has applauded the program. It may become a training model for the Department of Defense.

Those who have attended the CONSEP workshop praise this new approach to career development and say it is a rewarding experience.

Attendees must have between 6 and 12 years of service and must have a minimum of 18 months remaining to their EAOS on their current enlistment. Seats can only be reserved through command career counselors.

Call 761-2096 for information or see a Career Counselor.



## Around the Homeport

**Sailor of the Quarter** -- HM3 Sara Nichols of the Branch Medical Clinic receives a Sailor of the Quarter recognition plaque from BMCM (SW) Allen Herman of Port Operations. The plaques and other mementos were presented at the Sailor of the Quarter luncheon held Nov. 20 at Pelican Landing. The luncheon was hosted by the Moss Point Rotary, and the luncheon was prepared by Mess Specialists assigned to Naval Station Pascagoula.

Photo by Stacey Byington



Photo by Stacey Byington

**Safety stand-down** -- Carolyn Crumpton and Mike Gooch look over personal protection merchandise following a crime prevention safety stand-down, held Nov. 25 at the Learning Resource Center. Bill Cain, a national Crime Prevention Task Force instructor, spent the day at Pascagoula, speaking to different groups of military and civilian personnel. He said 58 percent of all crime in the United States is committed by teenagers under the age of 17.

**Goal surpassed** -- This year's Pascagoula goal for the Combined Federal Campaign was \$61,200. Pascagoula surpassed the goal by raising \$68,842.



Photo by JO1 Kim deJong

**Family Housing** -- The framing has gone up and some of the roofing material has been placed on the first of 160 new family housing units being built off Hwy. 57 in Gautier. The units are 3- and 4-bedroom, two-story duplexes, and the first families are expected to move into the new complex next winter.

## Around the Homeport

# Plan ahead for income tax season

By Jeffery J. Isabell, MBA  
FFSC Financial Specialist

Naval Station Pascagoula's Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) Center prepared more than 500 federal income tax returns last year, and more than 600 state returns.

Taxes are how we pay for a civilized society. Thankfully, we don't have to finance 'civilized society' all by ourselves. We are only obligated to pay our fair share. It's that plain and simple.

Sort of.

Actually, the sum of our fair share depends a great deal on how we juggle the numbers.

The fact is, we can preserve more of our taxable income with a little tax planning, performed in a timely manner. With a few aptly applied tax strategies, people can get their taxes in good shape for Uncle Sam.

**Form Over Function** - Which tax form should we use?

A person's income tax situation determines the kind of tax

return he or she must file with the IRS. The IRS has provided a quick guide to save people time when sifting through all the tax forms at the post office the night before the filing deadline.

It's EZ to use the 1040EZ if you:

- Earn taxable income below \$50,000
- Are single or married filing jointly
- Are 65 or younger
- Have no dependents
- Earn interest income under \$400

Go the 1040A route if you:

- Earn taxable income below \$50,000
- Have capital gains distributions from mutual funds, but no other gains or losses
- Have income adjustments limited to IRA contributions, student loan interest, educator expenses and/or tuition and fees

- Claim no itemized deductions

- Remember gifts to charity (Navy Relief, CFC, others)

File the 1040 long form if

you:

- Earn taxable income of \$50,000 or more
- Itemize deductions
- Earn self-employment income
- Have income from the sale of property.

The following anticipated tax changes for 2003 can be found in the IRS Form 1040 instruction book, page 16 or at [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov).

**IRA Deduction Allowed to More People Covered by Retirement Plans** - People may be able to take an IRA deduction if they were covered by a retirement plan and a 2003 modified AGI is less than \$50,000 (\$70,000 if married filing jointly or qualifying widow (er)).

**Self-Employed Health Insurance Deduction** - People may be able to deduct up to 100 percent of their health insurance expenses.

**Adoption Credit** - If a family adopts a child with special needs, they may be able to take a \$10,000 credit regardless of

the amount of their expenses.

**Child and Dependent Care Credit Increased** - People may be able to take a credit of up to \$1,050 for the expenses they pay for the care of one qualifying person; \$2,100 if they pay for the care of two or more qualifying persons.

**Standard Mileage Rates** - The 2003 rate for business use of a personal vehicle is 36 cents a mile. The 2003 rate for use of a vehicle to get medical care is 12 cents a mile. (Please note, there are special instructions with these rates).

**Lifetime Learning Credit Doubled** - The maximum Lifetime Learning Credit for 2003 is \$2,000.

The 2004 VITA Program is looking for volunteers to assist personnel with filling out their tax forms. Training will be held Jan. 6 - 9 at Keesler Air Force Base. Interested volunteers should contact LT Jon Jeffreys at 761-2100, or stop by the Staff Judge Advocate's Office to register.

## Safety begins with personal involvement

By Bill Dougherty  
CNRSE Public Affairs

In support of Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld's pledge to reduce mishaps by 50 percent over the next two years, Navy Secretary Gordon England, in an ALNAV (86/03), directed that all Navy commands develop a culture that includes three safety principles: Leadership Commitment, Leadership Courage and Leadership Integrity.

"It's incumbent on all levels of the chain of command and every Sailor and civilian employee to take personal involvement and accountability toward ensuring work and



home environments are safe," said Ron Williamson, Regional Safety Manager for Commander, Navy Region Southeast. "We have to continue to take responsibility for our people and ourselves as we work towards these mishap reduction goals."

Williamson added that an emphasis on simple procedures such as keeping work areas uncluttered, wearing appropriate personal protective equipment, or using proper lifting techniques, can all lead to identifiable mishap reductions and increased productivity.

"Everyone needs to play a role for the program to be successful," Williamson explained. "If you see an electrical receptacle that's broken, don't ignore it ... report it!"

"If you see someone doing something unsafe or not wearing the appropriate personal

protective equipment, either tell them, a supervisor, or call Safety. Be proactive. You'll prevent injuries and save lives."

The Regional Safety Manager said personal safety affects everyone. "You've probably seen or been involved in an accident. You know the irreparable harm a mishap can cause. It affects operational readiness, and at the worst, can cost lives. Accidents are preventable. It starts with personal involvement at every level, and there's no better time to make the commitment to safety than right now."



## Around the Homeport



**Reenlistment --** MA1(SW) Anthony Breaux takes the oath of reenlistment in front of co-workers and friends on Dec. 5 in Brisco Hall. The oath was administered by CDR Terry Rea, NAVSTA commanding officer. Breaux reenlistment for two more years in the U.S. Navy.

Photo by JO1 Kim deJong



Photo by Stacey Byington

**Holiday benevolence --** CDR Terry Rea, NAVSTA Pascagoula commanding officer, looks on as Carolyn McCorvey, Fleet and Family Service Center Director, accepts a check for \$1,000 from Caryn Hanson, president of the Jackson County Realty Board. Members of the Realty Board donated the money to help military families who might need a little extra assistance during the holidays. This is the third year that the area realtors have donated money or contributed toys for deserving families.



Photo by JO1 Kim deJong

**Remembrance run --** MS2(SCW) Misty McMasters is just one of many who took part in the 5K Remembrance Run on Dec. 5. The run commemorates the bombing of Pearl Harbor, Dec. 7, 1941.

## Around the Homeport

# Task Force Uniform completes survey

By CNP Public Affairs

WASHINGTON (NNS) — Members of Task Force Uniform (TFU) made their first report to Chief of Naval Operations (CNO) Adm. Vern Clark recently, after having completed a comprehensive internet survey and dozens of focus groups in fleet concentration areas.

"In the past, we have made minor quality improvements to Navy uniforms with limited scope," said Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy (SS/AW) Terry Scott. "The formation of Task Force Uniform was about more than just making additional minor modifications. It was about ensuring we have the right uniforms for Sailors of the 21st century. We listened to Sailors and their concerns, and made recommendations based on their desires and the mission requirements of the Navy."

Several uniform and policy recommendations were approved by the CNO as a result of this report, and new uni-



form concepts were approved for pilot testing throughout the Navy.

Immediate changes to Navy Uniform Regulations approved by the CNO include:

- Revise and rewrite outdated sections of the Regulations.
- Update photographs of all authorized uniforms.
- Add illustrations to increase clarity.
- Reformat the CD-ROM version to make it easier to retrieve information.
- Create an interactive Web-based version.

The CNO directed the pilot and testing of two new uniform concepts: a working uniform for E-1 through O-10 and a

year-round service uniform for E-6 and below. And he expanded TFU's tasking to examine the feasibility of a year-round service uniform for E-7 and above.

"CNO was so impressed with the careful thought Task Force Uniform put into the service uniform issue, that he wanted them to expand the scope to cover all Navy Uniforms," said MCPON.

The major charter expansion involved the implementation of pilot programs to examine and evaluate the new working uniform and the E-1 - E-6 service uniform concepts. The pilot programs will occur in various locations throughout the fleet and will include personnel in

various warfare communities at sea, ashore, overseas and in different climates. The final details and appearance of the uniforms to be tested are still being refined.

The CNO also reviewed policy concerning the use of civilian bags/backpacks, women's handbags, wireless communication devices, breast insignia and identification badges. The specific guidelines governing these items are being formulated, and Sailors should expect to see further guidance in the near future.

The recommendations made by TFU to CNO and his subsequent decisions were based on interviews with Sailors, command site visits, comprehensive research and data collected from a Navy-wide uniform survey. The survey collected feedback from more than 40,000 Sailors throughout the fleet. Other key factors that went into the decisions were military appearance, versatility, storage, safety, ease of maintenance and comfort.

*Continued on page 14*

# Major changes in store for civil service

By JO2 Mike England  
CNRSR Public Affairs

NAS Jacksonville's General Schedule (GS) civilian workforce will see a major overhaul to the civil service system beginning in fiscal year (FY) 2004. The National Security Personnel System (NSPS) established in the FY-2004 Defense Authorization bill will provide the Department of Defense (DoD) with agility in hiring and promoting a more responsive workforce. DoD will also have the authority to tie pay to performance (rather than longevity) and to establish a new system for appraising performance, according to the U.S. House of Representa-

tives website at [www.house.gov](http://www.house.gov).

"The changes to the civil service made in this bill will simplify the personnel process and make hiring new employees much easier," said NAS Jacksonville Business Manager, Tim Shepard.

The NSPS also provides personnel managers with the flexibility to classify positions, administer pay and allowances, and flexibility in determining a dispute resolution process for negotiating with employee representatives.

"The passage of this bill allows the DoD to shed the shackles of its 50-year-old civil service structure," said Virginia Congressman Tom Davis, the

House Government Reform Chairman on his website.

Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld, a key player in the civil service's restructuring, thinks the changes will improve the DoD's readiness. "The purpose of this overhaul is to create a flexible, agile, and effective civilian human resource system that will improve readiness by tying performance to mission, reward excellent performance, and increase organizational effectiveness," said Rumsfeld during his June 3 speech at the National Press Club.

According to a Department of the Navy NSPS briefing, some of the challenges DoD officials will face in the imple-

mentation of the new system include the elimination of guaranteed pay raises, specific and defensible performance evaluations, communicating and documenting performance goals, and providing professional feedback to employees on performance.

"This is a major shift in the mind set of the civil service from entitlement to performance," said Shepard.

Many of the provisions in the new personnel system were designed to give the DoD flexibility in adjusting to its ever-changing labor needs. The DoD can now hire up to 2,500 experts DoD-wide for up to five years, rehire annuitants

*Continued on page 14*



## Around the Homeport

# Seabees build school, aged home in Grenada

By LTJG Ligia Cohen  
COMUSNAVSOPAO

GRENADA, West Indies - Nearly 200 students and 10 senior citizens will soon start enjoying the new facilities constructed for them by a U.S. Task Force of 45 Seabees, the U.S. Navy construction force, as part of the New Horizons exercise in Grenada. New Horizons is an engineering and medical assistance exercise under the executive responsibility of U.S. Naval Forces Southern Command.

The exercise involves a 100-day deployment of Seabees from Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) One to the Eastern Caribbean island. Their tasking includes the construction of a 45'-by-89' Royal Building System (RBS) Aged Home facility, a 3-room school, and a 4-room school, in addition to a two-week medical outreach campaign/exercise conducted by personnel from the U.S. Air Force 96<sup>th</sup> Medical Group.

New Horizons projects are designed to provide relevant training to deployed U.S. forces while improving relations between the U.S. and the host nation.

"We are here to provide humanitarian and civic assistance construction while fostering goodwill with Grenada and acting as Ambassadors for the U.S.," said New Horizons Task Force Commander LT Anthony M. Conley. "This exercise will provide much needed facilities to the government of Grenada while providing valuable training for our troops."

The training value of the exercise consists of maintaining the Seabees' readiness to deploy to remote areas and under austere conditions with all the equipment needed to operate and conduct the mission: nearly 400 tons of equip-



Photo by LTJG Ligia Cohen

***SW3 Randall Tanner and BU2 Dan VanHouten organize wall panels to be used in the construction of a four-classroom building as part of the New Horizons exercise conducted in Grenada.***

ment and materials.

"We loaded a barge in Gulfport with everything we needed: tool kits, 7-8-2 (personal combat) gear, construction equipment, trucks, forklifts and even a bulldozer," said UTC (SCW) Michael Nasso, the task force executive officer.

In addition, the projects provide the Seabees the opportunity to hone their construction skills with a new type of structure, the Royal Building System (RBS), which consists of interlocking modules that are filled with concrete.

"The RBS construction can be completed in one-third of the time than traditional brick and mortar, still it is durable. It can resist hurricane-strength winds," said Nasso. "In total the three projects provide approximately 150 hours of work experience to each task force member."

But the impact of these projects in the Grenada community can not be measured by any conventional standard. The 180 students attending K thru 3<sup>rd</sup> grade at the Grand Anse

School will move from an old building where all the classes share the same room, only separated by thin dividers.

"The children will have a better learning environment as they have their own classrooms," said school principal Mrs. Monica Alexander. "Besides, since we will have more space, we will be able to increase our capacity; and our school will be consolidated, which is also beneficial for the teachers."

Since U.S. Air Force members built a 7-room building for the school during a New Horizons exercise conducted in 1999, the Grand Anse's student and teacher body had been split between two locations. The two new buildings constructed by NMCB-1 are adjacent to the facility built in 1999, creating a complete school complex.

A few miles from the new school, the new Aged Home moves quickly toward completion. The Aged Home will house seven to ten senior citi-

*Continued on page 13*



Photo by Stacey Byington

***Medical farewell -- Members of the Branch Medical Clinic say farewell to one of their own -- LCDR Dondria Smith-Hollies, the clinic's senior nurse. LCDR Smith-Hollies is transferring to the Navy Medical Clinic, Pearl Harbor, Hawaii.***

## Military News

# History project tells story of U.S. Veterans

By Sgt. 1st Class D. Sample  
Armed Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON, Nov. 19 —The letters, memoirs, audio interviews and photographs are “everything that you could imagine,” said Ellen McCulloch-Lovell, director of the Veterans History Project, an effort begun by Congress two years ago to preserve the stories and memories of America’s war veterans.

The letters, she said, speak of combat and what war was like. There are also stories of pranks and funny misfortunes that occurred while veterans were on leave. But most stories, she said, speak of the closeness and camaraderie within the military — “my buddies, my unit, and loyalty,” she noted, adding, “Loyalty is a very big theme.”

Another theme often written about is love and longing, she said, “you know, longing for the folks back home.”

McCulloch-Lovell pointed out that the project is stepping up efforts to ensure the words of thousands of veterans are told to an even greater audience. She said this month the Veterans History Project began airing a series radio broadcast called “Coming Home.” The series features the oral biographies of 18 war veterans who tell of their war experiences



and life in the military. It’s being aired via Public Radio International, which develops and supplies of noncommercial audio content to affiliate stations throughout the country.

McCulloch-Lovell said, “Nobody on the show is famous. It’s all the individual stories of people who served.”

The Veterans History Project has also expanded features on its web site, to include more digitized letters, photos and individual stories. Site visitors can now “see and listen” to the stories of 23 veterans, she said. And there is no shortage of stories to tell. In the two years since the project began, McCulloch-Lovell said interest by veterans wanting to share their stories has increased immensely. For the past year, her staff of about 15 has been receiving as many as 200 submissions each week at the project’s office, located inside the Library of Congress Folklife Center in Washington.

“I think the older veterans are not sitting back and waiting for someone to interview them,” she said. “They’re sitting down and writing these

remarkable memoirs and personal stories and are sending them to us. We have a memoir that’s 20 pages long. And we have another memoir that’s 900 pages long.”

Still, she said, even with the increased flow of mail arriving daily, the project staff tries to read each and every story. “We try to see and read everything that we can,” she noted. “We can’t quite keep up with it, but we really try to be familiar with the individual stories in the collection.”

The project director observed that the collection is missing letters and stories from soldiers currently serving in Iraq and Afghanistan. “Once they get back home, and get some rest, and their life has settled, I’m sure we’ll hear from them,” she said.

McCulloch-Lovell said the letters and memories she now works to preserve and share with the public are much like the ones of her father, who served five years in the Navy aboard the USS Hobby.

She said she once spent an entire week helping her mother make photocopies of thousands of pages of letters her

father mailed home during World War II. “We copied 1,822 pages of letters,” she recalled.

Her mother had kept the letters for years, preserving them in protective plastic sleeves. “I knew she was archiving them,” McCulloch-Lovell said. “It was a big project of hers after he died. It took awhile for me to find the time to spend a week with her, and I’m so glad that I did.”

She said her father often spoke of his military experiences and even though she knew about the letters, she never bothered to read them. “I was lucky, my father did tell me about his experiences,” she said, “although I never read the letters until he died.”

McCulloch-Lovell said that personal experience of helping her mother that week gave her a “strong feeling” for how important it is to save the personal stories of war time — the “family treasures that tell about the person’s experience in their own words.”

On the importance of the Veterans History Project, she said that 100 years from now people will be able to look back and understand why veterans served. “A student, or family member or a historian, or journalist is going to be looking at this collection and understand-

*Continued on page 14*

# Exercise Solid Curtain tests base security

By JO2(SW) C. Johnson  
Atlantic Fleet Public Affairs

NORFOLK, Va. (NNS) — Naval shore installations, activities and ships inside the continental United States recently finished participation in Exercise Solid Curtain ’03 (SC-03), an annual training exercise conducted Nov. 4-7 by U.S. Fleet Forces Command (FFC) to validate Navy anti-terrorism/

force protection (AT/FP) guidance, procedures and policy.

Although this year’s was the fourth such exercise, SC-03 was the first to incorporate all continental U.S. Navy regions.

“All of the regions were aware of events in other regions,” said LCDR Pete Mehl, FFC assistant anti-terrorism/force protection training and exercise officer. “This gave the command and control element

the opportunity to set higher force protection conditions.”

SC-03 consisted of 15 simultaneous attacks across the country, each designed to test a different regional AT/FP element.

“At [Naval Station Norfolk], we simulated a small boat attack. At [Naval Air Station] Oceana, an airborne attack,” said Mehl. “We ran similar events in every region.”

This year’s event focused on safety while not surrendering the element of surprise.

“This year we used what we call ‘white cells,’” said Mehl. “Basically, instead of attacking, the opposing force would present a scenario script to a sentry or guard at the point of simulated attack. Each installation was also required to provide a safety observer with

*Continued on page 14*



## Continuing on ...

### CNO sees great things in the future...

#### *Continued from page 2*

that ships can stay at sea for extended periods of time, without the need for deep maintenance at a shipyard.

"VADM Tim LaFleur, commander, Naval Surface Force U.S. Pacific Fleet, told me yesterday he's getting ready for the fourth rotation on USS Fletcher (DD 992)," said Clark. "He said all the feedback he's gotten from every group is that each time, it's in better shape than it was before. If you've got a chance to try something new, try it!"

The Sea Swap trial shows how the CNO is transforming the Navy. "It is time to challenge assumptions. It is time to stop doing things 'just because that's the way we've always done it,'" he said.

"LaFleur tells me though that they're tremendously impressed with the sustained readiness of the platform," he said. "We're at 18 months and kicking to 24. That's a revolution. It's exciting."

Clark said the Navy's future policies, procedures and technology look so bright, that he'd rate today's Navy status quo as a two on a scale of one to 10.

"It's going to be more lethal," he said. "It's going to be more responsive. It's going to be more technologically-driven. It's going to have smarter and even more sophisticated Sailors in it. And it's going to take those Sailors to run the kind of technology that we're going to inject into it."

"We'll have an airplane called the Joint Strike Fighter," Clark continued. "My favorite new word in war fighting is 'persistence.' In Afghanistan, we were going to the target area, and it was 800 or 900 miles away from the carrier, going to the tanker four and five times, hanging on the blades, waiting in case a Special Forces troop needed help on the ground. They were

there, 24/7. JSF will go all the way there and back, and never go to the tanker. That's persistence. That's combat reach.

"There will be more like that," Clark said. "Tactical Tomahawk is coming. You'll be able to reprogram it in-flight. More precision targeting, not less. FORCEnet...it's at the heart of Sea Power 21. Ten or 15 years from now, it'll be about people knowing things, about pervasive knowledge. It's going to be incredible."

The CNO visited San Diego after a stop in Hawaii. He was providing the same message in both places, he said.

"Chasing the money," he said. "We've got to make sure we're getting everything we can out of every dollar spent. The decisions we make today will affect the Navy in 2050. This is one of the most important times in our history. The future is about fielding the genius inherent in our people."

### Seabees build school, elderly home...

#### *Continued from page 11*

zens.

"The new Aged Home will replace an old building with a leaking roof and rotting floors," said U.S. Army Master Sgt. Ursula Dees, Task Force Civil Affairs.

"The Social Services Ministry is also looking at the possibility of increasing capacity at the new facility. There is a great need of adequate housing for senior citizens."

New Horizons Grenada has also presented a unique partnership opportunity for the U.S. Armed Forces and U.S.-based Non Governmental Organizations (NGOs). In a "turn-key" operation, Admiral Denton Foundation, and International Medical Equipment Collaborative (IMEC) will en-

dow the facilities with the equipment needed to operate.

The school will receive 250 desks for the students and teachers plus equal number of student kits from Admiral Denton Foundation, while the Aged Home will be fully furnished by IMEC.

"We are providing the furnishing for bedrooms, kitchen, medical examination room, and sitting and dining areas," said Tom Keefe, President of IMEC, a New Hampshire-based organization with the mission of serving doctors and nurses who care for their nations' poor.

"While working with the New Horizons program, we were also introduced to government officials in Grenada

and establish contacts that will allow us to continue working in other for locations to further extent our contribution," added Keefe.

Once the school and Aged Home are completed and furnished, a third NGO, Florida International Volunteer Corps will send volunteers to provide training to the staffs at both facilities.

New Horizons Grenada constitutes the second engineering and civic assistance exercise under the responsibility of Commander U.S. Naval Forces Southern Command during this calendar year. As part of New Horizons Dominican Republic, NMCB 133 built four school-

#### **MWR Facilities Hours of operation**

##### **Outdoor Rental 761-2038**

Boats, campers, travel trailers, land and garden equipment, outdoor grills, propane, hunting and fishing licenses, and much, much more. Mondays, 6 a.m. - 2 p.m.; Tuesdays through Fridays, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. Closed on Saturdays, Sundays

##### **Cracker Jack's Lakeside 938-0439**

Serves breakfast and lunch Monday through Friday. Food and beverages, five TVs, including a big-screen, free pool tables, free computers with internet capability, playstations, patio with view of the lake. Mondays-Thursdays, 5-10 p.m.; Fridays, 5-11 p.m., Breakfast, 6-7:30 a.m.; Lunch, 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.; Saturdays, 11 a.m. - 11 p.m.; Sundays, 11 a.m. - 7 p.m.

##### **Sports/Fitness Center 761-2107**

Mondays-Fridays, 5:30 a.m.-9:30 p.m.; Saturdays, 11 a.m.-6 p.m.; Sundays, noon-6 p.m.

##### **Cyber Cafe/ Liberty Center 761-2402/761-2293**

Food and snacks, 12 free computer stations with internet capability, playstations, free pool tables, big-screen TV, movies. Mondays-Fridays, 10a.m. - 10 p.m.; Saturdays and Sundays, 11 a.m.-10 p.m.

##### **ITT 761-2432**

Ticket outlet for Gulf Coast Colliseum, theme park tickets, worldwide cruise packages, vacation and travel planning, information on local attractions. Mondays-Fridays, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

**Skeeter's**  
Main Softball Field  
Open for breakfast Monday through Friday, 6 - 9 a.m. Also open for softball games, other sporting events, and for other special occasions.

## Continuing on ...

# Major changes in store for civil service ...

### *Continued from page 10*

with no offset to retired pay, and hire people on the spot. Employees can also be reassigned within pay bands without competition and be ranked based on their performance appraisal.

The DoD will also make drastic changes to the civil service pay system. Gone are the days of pay raises based on longevity and annual cost-of-living increases. Under the new system, employees will receive raises based solely on their supervisor's appraisal. However, the DoD will maintain the same level of funding for pay pools for FY-2004-2008 as would otherwise have

been allocated had the new system not been established. The new system, which is based on existing statutory merit system principles, will give employees the option of receiving their pay raises through an increase in basic pay, a one-time cash payment, or both.

NSPS personnel will also see a change in the pay band system. The current 15 grade, 10 step system will be replaced by a system that divides workers into three career groups and four levels. Professional and administrative management personnel will be in career group one, engineering, scien-

tific, and medical support staff will be assigned to career group two, and business and administrative support personnel will represent career group three.

The DoD will form a committee to implement these sweeping changes once the president signs the Defense Authorization bill.

"This legislation is almost as important for what it does not change as for what it does change. Although there will be significant differences in how GS pay is determined and how reductions-in-force are processed, it will not impact the civil service foundation of

Merit Systems Principles and Prohibited Practices. Additional items that are not changed by the legislation include employee benefits (life insurance, health insurance, thrift savings plan, retirement, unemployment compensation, workers compensation), employee development, incentive awards, hours of work and leave, equal employment opportunity, and discipline," said Navy Region Southeast Human Resources Program Manager, Kay Marti.

The president is expected to sign the FY-2004 Defense Authorization bill within the next few weeks.

## Task force uniforms...

### *Continued from page 10*

"We asked a lot of very detailed questions and received some very detailed responses in return," said MCPON, who oversaw the massive effort. "We were very pleased with the level of participation in the survey and the focus groups."

Thirty seven percent of those surveyed were satisfied with uniform durability, with senior officers the most satisfied (52 percent) and E-1 - E-6 the least satisfied at 32 percent. The same figures held true for uniform fit and uniform material, with senior enlisted proving the most satisfied in those categories (51 percent) and E-1 - E-6 the least satisfied at 33 percent and 31 percent, respectively.

The survey found that female Sailors were more dissatisfied than male Sailors across the criteria. Shore-duty Sailors were generally more satisfied with uniforms across criteria than Sailors on sea duty.

The Navy spends approxi-

mately \$300 million a year on uniforms, including initial outfitting, clothing replacement allowances and organizational clothing.

The vision of TFU is to give Sailors a cost-effective set of uniforms presenting a professional appearance, recognizing naval heritage, and offering versatility, safety, ease of maintenance and storage, utility and comfort.

Specific tasks included development of alternatives for a working uniform for E-1 through O-10, to be worn at sea or ashore, across all communities and a year-round service uniform for E-6 and below; to evaluate the usefulness of each uniform item against specific factors, with an eye toward reducing the number of uniform items and increasing interchangeability; and to streamline and simplify the uniform regulations into an easily understood and enforceable document.

## Exercise solid curtain...

### *Continued from page 12*

each opposing force."

In addition, exercises were planned for after normal working hours to decrease the likelihood of accidental injuries.

Although the main thrust of the evolution was to evaluate command response, the exercise also validated that the Sailors and Marines were up to the challenge.

"It gave the masters-at-arms, first-responders, security — people like that — the opportunity to respond to ex-

ternal events and test their response plans," said Mehl. "They performed very well."

The evaluators will now have to go through the results of the exercise, but initial indications are largely positive.

"It really demonstrated where we need to focus," said Mehl. "We learned we do have a robust command and control system, but we need to look at ways to leverage technology to improve our notifications and response time."

## History project...

### *Continued from page 12*

ing the experience of people who went through war and how it changed them and how it changed the country," she said.

"Certainly our goals are to collect and to preserve the sto-

ries," she pointed out, "but I think we also have two very important goals — that we honor the service and that we educate future generations about what it's like to serve."



## Around the Homeport

# Renovations planned for Single Sailor center

By **Kristen Kea**  
**MWR Director**

The Morale, Welfare and Recreation (MWR) Department's Cyber Café is going under an extreme make-over.

The \$350K renovation project will enhance the current Liberty (Single Sailor) program and provide a lot more recreational opportunities for Sailors. The idea behind the renovation is to make a "home away from home" atmosphere where Sailors feel like they can get away and relax. For those 1500 Sailors that currently utilize the facility each month, they will see some of their requested ideas made into reality, thanks to money provided by the LANTFLT Quality of Life facility upgrade program. The contract was awarded as a ROIC design build contract and will be completed by Enola Contracting Services, Inc from Chipley Florida.

The new facility will boast of a new dedicated movie viewing area designed with

state of the art surround sound and plush seating for optimal movie watching. The MWR department is able to show new movie releases via the Navy Motion Picture Services Program. With over 500 new and classic movies in the inventory the new movie room will be a big hit with Sailors.

The renovation will also add a dedicated computer room for Internet and gaming use. The new room will allow a more conducive environment for computer use. The MWR Department recently purchased a T-1 line for fast Internet access for users and contracted a maintenance program to keep the computers in optimized use. Now you can view Internet sites in seconds, where before it felt like hours loading a site with graphics.

In addition to a computer and movie room, a small home-style kitchen will be included in the renovation. It wouldn't be a Cyber Café without a dedicated kitchen space. The kitchen will be available for

Sailors wanting to cook a meal together as well as be used by the MWR staff in programming some cooking nights at the Cyber Café. Liberty Coordinator, David Maxwell is well-known for his famous Crawfish boils and other seasonal cook-outs. Look for more programmed events in the 2004 summer.

Once, the computers and movies are moved out of the front room, additional space will be available for two pool tables, one ping pong table, one air hockey table, one foosball table and four PlayStation II systems.

The front counter area will also be expanded for a snack bar. The current snack operation is a great place to catch a bite to eat on the weekends and evenings after everything else on the base has closed down. It's also convenient for patrons wanting to check their email over their lunch time and get back to work. Hot dogs, pizza, hot pockets, burritos, ice

cream, and chips are just some of the items you can purchase.

The Cyber Café will stay open throughout most of the renovation project so patrons of the facility might get a little dusty but Internet and movie service will still be provided. The facility will be closed this spring for about 14 days to complete the renovation to the front room however, during this time the MWR shuttle will provide 7-day-a-week shuttle service to the Crackerjacks Recreation Center at Lakeside. Signs and notices will be posted in advance informing patrons of the construction schedule.

The newly renovated Cyber Café is scheduled for its grand re-opening the first part of July 2004.

For more information about the Liberty Program and its calendar of events call 761-2402 or stop by. The Cyber Café is located across from the barracks in what was once the old galley.

## FFSC employee heads to Army recruit training

By **Gerri Warden**  
**FFSC Specialist**

Tamara Marks came to work at Fleet and Family Support Center in November of 2001 as the ADP Specialist and the FAP Clerk. In her time here she provided a strong, positive impact in both positions. She was extremely versatile and always demonstrated the ability to attain the desired results in all her assignments.

In the two years she was here she excelled in incorporating the newest computer equipment technology into our programs. She demonstrated a high level of technical competence and spent endless hours maintaining the equipment. Anytime the classroom



**Tamara Marks**

equipment was in use, it was expected that the presenter would soon be calling for Tamara. She had an impressive ability to make it all work.

Her trouble shooting skills always brought about effective solutions.

The Family Advocacy Program is a highly complicated agenda that requires accuracy and rigid standards. All documentation must be precise. Tamara excelled in conforming to the strict specifications. She gave meticulous attention to detail, displaying a strong personal commitment to successfully completing all projects. In an atmosphere that can be highly misunderstood, she was able to handle the most sensitive situations with grace, tact and warmth. Her ability to take appropriate action without offending and to show respect for the feelings

of others displayed a mature attitude.

Tamara was always seeking personal growth and development. She recognized her own strengths and weaknesses and made plans for future career development. In her search for fresh challenges she developed an interest in becoming a part of the active duty military. Tamara left FFSC in December to enlist in the U.S. Army.

We are proud of her but we miss our friend and colleague. We miss her pleasant, cheerful disposition, her relaxed, confident attitude, and her pleasing personality. We wish her well.

The Army is lucky to have her.

## MWR Activities

# Take part in 'Hot and Spicy' night

Naval Station Pascagoula's Morale, Welfare and Recreation department has a wide range of activities and events planned for January. They include:



### New Year's Fitness Resolution Day Jan. 1

#### Fitness Center

A personal trainer will be on hand to tailor exercise and diet programs to help meet fitness goals in a desired amount of time. Take an hour to come up with a fitness management program for the new year. Active duty, family members, reservists, retirees and Navy Pascagoula DoD civilians are welcome to attend.

### Paintball Jan. 7, 14, 21 and 28 4:30 p.m.

#### Paintball Field

Feel like changing the normal afternoon routine? Grab a couple of friends and head to the Paintball field every Wednesday afternoon for a couple of games of "Capture the Flag." It's fun and exciting. The field is available every Wednesday beginning at 4:30 p.m. Play for up to four hours for only \$10 per person. Includes protective clothing, guns and 200 paintballs. Call 761-2293 or 761-2038 to reserve the field.

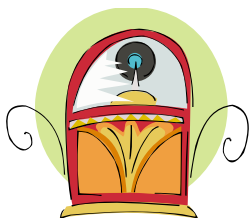
### Wild Card Weekend Jan. 3 and 4, Noon Cracker Jack's

the NFL shifts into the play-off mode. Join all the action on the big screen. See which team will become contenders for a divisional title. Hot wings for \$5 and a chance to win a

NFL t-shirt. Cracker Jack's is the best place in town to catch all of the post season action.

### Divisional Playoff Weekend Paintball Jan. 10 and 11, 12 p.m. Cracker Jack's

Join an afternoon of post-season action and find out who captures the divisional title. Win a NFL T-shirt and enjoy hot wings for \$5.



### Karaoke Night Jan. 15 and 22, 7 p.m. Cracker Jack's

Take center stage at Cracker Jack's for Karaoke night. Win a prize for singing a favorite song and showing style and charisma.

### Hot and Spicy Night Jan. 15, 6:30 p.m. Cyber Cafe

The Cyber Cafe is cooking up some "hot and spicy" jerk chicken and cajun rice for a night that won't be forgotten.

### Toby Keith Concert Jan. 17, 7:30 p.m. Mississippi Coast Coliseum

Tickets are on sale at ITT. They are \$46 and \$56. Get them while they last.



### Championship Sunday Jan. 18, Noon Cracker Jack's

Catch all the action of the conference championship games leading up to the Super Bowl. Enjoy snacks and take a

chance at winning a NFL t-shirt.

### Cardio Challenge Jan. 21 - March 26 Noon Fitness Center

Sign up for the challenge of self-disciplined, goal oriented individuals who can maintain a fitness routine. Trophies will be awarded to the winners. Register at the Fitness Center by Jan. 19 and log all workouts to win. Call 761-2107 for more information.

### Chinese New Year Fitness Center

Stop by the gym and discover good fortune and pick up a free banana. It's the year of the monkey. Swing by and hang out for awhile.

### Liberty Senior Bowl trip and Tailgate Party Jan. 24, Noon

Witness the next round of NFL stars live as they showcase their talents. Leave the Cyber Cafe at noon and arrive at Ladd-Peebles Stadium in time to partake in a giant tailgate party. The games begins at 4 p.m. Tickets are \$18 and must be purchased by Jan. 9. For more information call 761-2402.

### Popcorn-Eating Contest and Movies Jan. 29, 6:30 p.m. Cyber Cafe

Another obscure national observance is "National Popcorn Day." Join in the fun of a movie and plenty of popcorn. The person who eats the most popcorn will win a prize.

### Super Bowl Pas, Punt and Kick Competition Jan. 30, Noon Main Softball Field

Participants will get one shot at passing, punting and kicking the ball. The person with the most cumulative yard-

age will win the competition. Prizes will be awarded for first and second place.



### Chocolate Samplings Jan. 30, 5 p.m. Cracker Jack's and Cyber Cafe

With Valentine's Day about two weeks away this is the perfect opportunity to taste what is in the candy box before it is bought.

### MWR Facilities Jan. 1 Hours

Sports & Fitness Center, 12 - 6 p.m.

Cracker Jack's, 10 a.m. - 7 p.m.

Skeeter's, Closed

Outdoor Rental, Closed

ITT, Closed

MWR Admin, Closed

### MWR Facilities Jan. 2 Hours

Sports & Fitness Center, noon - 6 p.m.

Cracker Jack's, 10 a.m. - 11 p.m.

Skeeter's, Closed

Outdoor Rental, 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.

ITT, Closed

MWR Office, Closed

## Personal Classifieds

**FOR SALE:** Fernandes electric guitar, new last Christmas, never used. \$100. Gator hard Guitar Case, \$50 and a Fender Companion 110, older model, but very good quality, \$75. Call Ruth at 761-2432 or 497-3109 for more information.